

Message Text

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41

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 VO-03 SCA-01 SP-02 L-03 CIAE-00

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APPROVED BY C: MR. SONNENFELDT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 216855

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CVIS, IT

SUBJECT: VISA FOR ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIAL

REF: ROME 13023

1. POLICY ON VISAS FOR PCI MEMBERS IS THIS: WE SHALL NOT ASK FOR WAIVERS FOR ANY MEMBER OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY TRAVELING TO THE U.S. EITHER AS A PCI OFFICIAL OR WHOSE SOLE OR MAIN PURPOSE IS TO REPRESENT PARTY INTERESTS. SINCE SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE PCI HIERARCHY CANNOT DIVORCE THEMSELVES FROM THEIR PARTY POSITIONS, THEY WOULD UNDER MOST CIRCUMSTANCES BE DISQUALIFIED ON BOTH COUNTS. THIS POLICY WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE POSSIBLE WAIVERS FOR JOURNALISTS, TOURISTS, OR PCI MEMBERS TRAVELING FOR REASONS OTHER THAN PARTY BUSINESS.

2. DEPARTMENT THEREFORE CONCURS IN LINE OF ACTION PROPOSED PARAGRAPH 8 REFTEL. OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL PARTY SPOKESMEN WILL NOT BE GIVEN WAIVERS FOR OCTOBER 24-26 SEMINAR OR
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ANY SIMILAR OCCASION.

3. POLICY DESCRIBED ABOVE WILL GIVE US SOME CONTINUING FLEXIBILITY. HOWEVER, EMBASSY OFFICERS SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT WE ARE NOT LOOKING FOR DEVICES THAT WILL PERMIT PCI MEMBERS TO TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES ON DISGUISED PARTY BUSINESS. WE THEREFORE DO NOT WISH TO NEGOTIATE WITH SEGRE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GUISE WHEREBY PCI REPRESENTATIVES CAN PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC GATHERINGS AND STILL QUALIFY FOR VISAS AS TOURISTS, JOURNALISTS, ETC. KISSINGER

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